

NSC BRIEFING

19 March 1958

INDONESIA (short)

I. Indonesian central government forces have control of major centers of east Central Sumatra, including most US oil installations which are to resume operations.

A. Reinforcements moving up Siak probably to resume offensive operations toward Bukittinggi and Padang, which has been bombarded from the sea.

1. Dissidents preparing to attempt to defend road.

2. No move yet by govt forces to invade west coast.

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II. Dissident leaders have stepped up condemnation of Sukarno, thereby making Hatta-Sukarno rapprochement even more difficult.

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A. Dissidents say they are prepared to fight prolonged guerrilla war. This remains to be seen, however.

B. Dissidents would get boost with arrival of widely respected Col. Kawilarang (former MA in Washington) in Menado for which he was last reported heading.

III. Pro-Djakarta forces ^{are also} ~~seen to be~~ in control of Medan after attempted coup under US-trained Maj. Naim Golan on night of 16 March.

IV. Barlian continues to be key figure, so far remaining neutral awaiting outcome of fighting.

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- V. Sukarno returned to Djakarta on 16th after tour of East Java and East Indonesia drumming up support; welcomed by big show of Commie support.
- VI. Ten recently purchased Soviet ships (out of \$100,000,000 loan) have arrived in Djakarta, and may soon be used for transporting govt troops.

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